



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

Sir William Shawcross CVO
Commissioner for Public Appointments
1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and HM Paymaster General

06 May 2026

By email only

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April consulting me on the proposed updates to the list of significant appointments. The new list is a sensible update, reflecting the changes in the public bodies and appointments landscape since 2017.

I therefore agree with the proposed additions to the list and the seven bodies removed, all of which have either been created since 2017 or disestablished, merged, sold or succeeded by new organisations. I also agree with the specific proposal that the Independent Reviewer of Public Sector Fraud Authority Enforcement be included on the list of significant appointments, as set out in your letter of 22 April notifying me that the role is to be treated as a regulated public appointment.

As you know, I have recently been consulted by the Minister for Victims and Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls, Alex Davies-Jones MP, on the addition of the Victims' Commissioner and the Chair of the Parole Board to the list of significant appointments. Like you, I agree that both roles should be added to the list of significant appointments and will write to confirm this with Minister Davies-Jones.

In my assurance role, I wish to raise three appointments that I think would benefit from the added independence and scrutiny provided by a Senior Independent Panel Member. These are appointments where the office-holder or public body is charged with independently upholding the rights of citizens and the public. This includes an independent regulatory agency. At the core of these appointments is operational independence from government. I believe this need for independence also extends to the appointments process. The roles I suggest are as follows:

1. Small Business Commissioner
2. Chair of Social Work England
3. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner

You, of course, do not have to accept my recommendation that these roles be made significant appointments. However, I would encourage you to consider the inclusion of these roles on the updated list.

Yours sincerely,

William Shawcross CVO
Commissioner for Public Appointments